

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA Takes 1st Place in Field Day 2008

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA, operating as W4DXA from the QTH of AA4S, won Category 5E nationwide by a wide margin in this year's Field Day event. We also smashed the previous Category 5E record of 9,202 points. W4DXA scored 13,950 points. The second place entry scored 5,788 points. You can read how we did this on page 3 of the July 2008 Pileup (<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0807.pdf>).

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Here are some different ways to compare our scores to others:

- o W4DXA was 1st among the 3 entries in Category 5E. In 2007 we were in Category 4E and place 1st then, too.
 - o W4DXA was 12th among all 2,409 entries in all categories. We were 16th in 2007.
 - o W4DXA was 1st among all 73 entries in the North Carolina Section. We were also 1st in 2007.
 - o W4DXA was 3rd among all 189 entries in the Roanoke Division. We were 2nd in 2007.
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- o W4DXA was 1st among all 254 entries in E categories. We were 2nd in 2007.
 - o W4DXA was 9th among all 2,327 entries with five or fewer stations. In 2007 we were 8th among all entrants with four or fewer stations.

So it was another great effort from the QTH of Ron, AA4S. We dominated the E category entries. Another challenge would be to make the Top Ten Box published in QST. We were only 804 points away this year. Next year we should shoot to make the Top Ten Box.

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NA4L (Near Hillsville, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NA4L ("C NA4L")	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Murphy's Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC	

Dues are Due

Yes, it is that time of the year when Secretary/Treasurer Wagoner is looking for your dues to show up in his mailbox. Please don't wait until March to give your check to Cliff at the Charlotte Hamfest—it makes it tough to compute a budget when we're 1/4th of the way through the fiscal year before we know what our dues revenue will be. Besides, the membership year is January through December.

To make things easy for you, Cliff and Webmaster Wayne Setzer now have put a PayPal payment option on our website. All you need is a credit card and a few clicks with your mouse, and you'll be a paid-in-full member. Merely click on the "Join/Renew" tab on the CDXA website and follow instructions printed there.

As announced in last month's Pileup, dues are now \$20 per year if you are not a Cluster user or \$35 per year if you do use the CDXA cluster. Please renew before January. —*The Editor*

"Talk is Cheap"

Recently, your editor received a telephone call from Dick Genaille, W4UW, advising us he's been "published" again. Over the years, Dick has had over 30 articles published in publications such as Ham Radio, 73 Magazine, CQ Magazine, and Electronics World.

He's not resting on his laurels, however. In the November, 2008 issue of CQ Magazine (Page 44), Dick has his newest article, "Talk is Cheap", published. Take a look at it. Keep up the good work, Dick. There's rumblings that another article is in the works, too!

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

Welcome New Member

In the write-up about the BBQ in the October issue of the *Pileup*, we slipped in a tidbit that might have gone unnoticed except by those with sharp eyes. Shortly before the BBQ, **Eric Sossoman (K4CEB)** joined CDXA and returned the familiar callsign of his late father, Larry, to the roster. Eric also put that familiar callsign out in the recent CQWW-SSB contest, and is an entrant in the "Contest Within a Contest" (CWAC). Eric lives in Concord, NC. It's a pleasure to have you aboard, Eric.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . .

Ten Years Ago:

Editor Daso, K4ZA, spent some time surfing some of the sites on the then relatively new Internet (at least new to those not in academia or the military) and highlighted the NG3K site (even today it is one of the more useful sites for the DXer, and it accessible via a link on the CDXA site!). . . . Don had also just returned from a 9.4 Million+ point effort in CQWW-SSB from PJ8 and provided some tips about being on the "other end" (good reading and he reminds everyone to ALWAYS use full call signs). . . . Don was busy this month, also providing comments on using the MFJ-259 in its first year in his possession. Some of the comments were obviously taken to heart and put in the successor unit, MFJ-259B. . . . Ken Boyd had recently been issued the callsign K4DXA. . . . a gang of CDXAers met at the QTH of K4MQG to finally find the cause of the problem with Gary's monstrous 80m Yagi and get it back on the air for DXing. . . . Roger Webb, W4MW, had recently completed a two-way EME QSO with Vermont earning him WAS using 2 meters. . . . Joe Simpkins wrapped up his year as President by thanking all who volunteered their time and materials to move CDXA along.

Twenty Years Ago:

Editor Douglass, K2SD, reported that the MIR space station was to go active on November 19, 1988 and that he had recently copied them with good signals while mobiling down Independence Blvd. . . . a recently completed DXpedition to Rotuma Island reported they had over 34,000 QSOs in the log. . . . The DX Advisory Committee approved Malyj Vysotskij Island as an entity and would consider it a new entity after March 3, 1989. . . . a quarterly CDXA meeting was announced for early December at Ric Porter's **BRANDING IRON** restaurant. (Ahh, how well we remember the good times at the Branding Iron even years later.)



2008 Christmas Party/Annual Meeting

What: CDXA Annual Meeting and Christmas Party
When: Thursday, December 11, 2008
Time: 6:30PM Cocktail Hour / 7:15PM Dinner
Where: Shanghai Restaurant
8418 Park Road
Charlotte, NC (704-556-1688)
(In Quail Corners Shopping Center)
Cost: \$19.95 person, tax and tip included
Libation: CASH Bar for Beer and Wine
(No credit cards for bar purchases.)

It is that time of the year, again, when we meet to celebrate the Christmas season, renew friendships, elect officers, transact club business, and award CWAC contestants their just dues.

This year we will have a very short business meeting to consider an amendment to club bylaws to allow proxy voting for election of officers. This is the official notice that said bylaw change will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. The text of the proposed amendments are detailed on the top of Page 8.

Proxy voting for election of officers will be allowed this year as an interim measure by vote of the Executive Committee. See the proxy elsewhere in this newsletter. Proxies should be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer Cliff Wagoner at: P.O. Box 577; Davidson, NC 28036 by December 4, 2008.

Those wishing to attend the Party/Annual Meeting should make reservations with Vice-President Paul Ponak (AD4IE)—pponak@carolina.rr.com or (704) 332-1882.

Carolina DX Association

2008 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Shanghai Restaurant

December 11, 2008

MENU

Chicken Velvet Corn Soup (or) 2 Spring Rolls

[Your choice of one entrée]

Sesame Duo

Crispy chicken and shrimp in a sesame sauce.
(or)

Triple Crown

Beef, chicken and shrimp with broccoli.
(or)

Grilled Shrimp

*...with lemon pepper sauce over tender
sautéed green beans.*
(or)

Veggie Medley

...with tofu.

*Each entrée served with steamed or fried rice.
ALL meals come with coffee, tea or soda.*



"Most Wanted" in Pictures!

It is truly amazing what we can find surfing the Internet. Recently, I came across an amateur radio website that had photos of the top 50 "most wanted" DXCC entities.

If you've ever wondered what Bouvet, Navassa, Heard Island, etc., looks like, then wonder no more. Merely go to:

<http://dx-hamspirit.com>

and take it all in. These are some wonderful photos of places which may have only been in your mind's eye up until now. —*The Editor*

Ooops!

Remember in last month's recap of the SEDCO Convention when your editor gave a rundown of all from CDXA who were in attendance? Well, that list was composed from "memory", and we've found that the editor's memory just isn't what it used to be. So, for **George Hall (W4BUW)** of Taylors, SC we offer our apologies. At the SEDCO convention, George spent a lot of time with Joe Blackwell, AA4NN. We suppose that might be because George is still the "B" letter manager for the W4 QSL Bureau, and he and Joe conducted a lot of business between themselves over the years Joe kept the bureau running smoothly.

We should know George for other exploits, too. You see, he holds Top of the Honor Roll honors. He's been licensed since he was 12 in 1952. So, put George on the list of SEDCO attendees and we'll look for him there next year, too.

AA4ZZ Shines in June VHF Contest

If you're a contester, you probably hang out on the "contest pages" of the ARRL website awaiting the appearance of the pre-publication reports of QST articles about contests. Recently, the write-up of the ARRL June VHF QSO Party was posted. A quick check showed the mountaintop crew of **AA4ZZ placed 2nd in the Nation in the Limited Multioperator** class. A little deeper in the article, one finds that the same team finished **1st in the Southeast in the Limited Multioperator** category. Placing in the top 10 nationally from the Southeast can be tough because VHF/UHF aficionados know that there is a distinct advantage of operating in the higher population density areas of the Northeast. Yet, a wonderful E_s opening from the central Carolinas to Arizona gave a boost to the southern states in June resulting in a number of record setting scores across the south.

It is always fun to play with statistics a bit. In the medium club category, CDXA finished 8th nationally as a club pointwise with 6 entrants. But, if you divide the total submitted scores by the number of entrants, CDXA finished **FIRST** nationally in the medium club category with 108, 253 points per entrant. The national big winner using a points-per-entry method was Nocogdoches ARC in Texas which scored 290,521 points per entrant with only 5 entrants in the Local Club category! The Murgas ARC in Wilkes-Barre, PA (also a Local Club entrant) also eclipsed CDXA amongst all clubs nationally dropping CDXA to third nationally on a points per entrant basis for all clubs entries. Still, not bad!

Of course, all club entries for CDXA are aided immensely by those of you who get on your VHF/UHF rigs during these contests to give a QSO to all CDXA participants—fixed or rover stations. Thank all of you for that.



DX King Competition Starts January 1

0000 UTC, January 1st is the start time for both the 2009 DX Marathon and CDXA's DX King competition. This is your chance to earn fame, capture outstanding plaques, win handsome certificates, and possibly take home a 26 inch LCD TV. See page three of the October Pileup, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0810.pdf>, for all the details.

CQWW, CW—Friday after Thanksgiving

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA's half-time report for the CQWW contest is disappointing. As of this writing, our Club score is just over 13 million points. This compares to the 19 million points we claimed for SSB last year. We need a very strong effort in the CW contest to approach last year's results. See another article in this issue to learn how to take advantage of CW Skimmer to improve your score. Maybe this will prove to be the secret weapon that gives us the needed boost. So after you finish your Thanksgiving celebration get on the air, have some fun, and contribute to CDXA's club score.

Ron (AA4S), Joe (KI4TZ), Steve (KZ2I), Bob (N4PQX), and Roger (N4ZC) formed the CDXA five-man SSB team. The Team scored over 6 million points. An excellent effort.

Everyone who operates in either contest should submit their log to CQ to contribute to our Club score. CQ will send you an email confirming receipt. If you didn't get the email, you need to resubmit. Full details on how to do this are in the contest rules at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/CQWWDXContestRules8407.pdf> or [page 94 of the September CQ magazine](#). Remember to show "Carolina DX Assn" as your Club.

The deadline for submitting logs to CQ is December 1 for SSB and January 15th for CW.

I need your results, both SSB and CW, by December 2 so I can have the CWAC prizes ready to present at our December 11th Christmas party. Send me your number of QSOs, number of countries, number of zones, and total score. Additionally, I need your power level (high, low, or QRP) and whether or not you were assisted. And, if you made over 1000 QSOs, your preference for a prize – trophy or Outback Steak House gift card. Send them to w3oa@roadrunner.com.

Here's something new for this year—CDXA members' comments on the SSB contest. Our own Soapbox:

AF1E: I could only operate a short time since we went away for the weekend. Heck, someone has to be last—HI HI.

K8YC: Last QSO was with KZ2I on 10m. That single QSO on 10m to Steve about 10 miles from my house added one country multiplier and one zone multiplier to my count and 1,406 points to my score! Then I went for a bike ride with my XYL. I should have stayed home and figured out how to get a piece of wire up for 160m.

KI4TZ: Sure wish 10 would have opened. I have only 13 Q's compared to 98 last year. That would have bumped the score a bit, but had fun anyway....

KU4V: The station was ready, but I was not. Thursday PM I came down with the Flu, had 101 fever until Sunday AM. Almost did not go into work Monday.

KZ2I: Sorry it's not up to the usual effort. It just wasn't a good combination of conditions, equipment and operator health. Next Year!!

N1GC: Enjoyed listening to W3OA, N2TU, N4PQX and AA4S during the test. I had no night time operations, therefore no 80 meters. Only Sunday after 6:15 for 40. I chose to spend Saturday on 160 for 2 hours.

N4PQX: Strange propagation but netted a better score this year with some more Q's over last year. Only had one run on Sunday AM on 15m for 1 hour exactly and then it died as fast as it started but a good 105Q hour that saved me scorewise. Almost made it to 1000 Q's but ran out of new people to work. Guess I'll go back to trying packet again after talking to N4ZC on Sunday as he was doing much better than me by running packet and N1MM. Did work some good stuff—A73A on 40m for a new country, several on 160m for new ones, VU2PAI on 15m, JW7QIA and VR2MXT late on 20m Sunday. Nice batch of JA's on 20m both evenings, and some on 15m too. Short skip to the Caribbean was not really there at all for me on 15m, and 10m didn't exist for me. Hope everyone did well.

N4ZC: The last contest was the first time I ever had 160m beat 10m and it was the same this time. Last year I had to take time off to do my radio show. Not so this year and I almost doubled my score. In fact I'm only about 100k below last years SSB/CW total. I had planned to do a good bit of CQing this time but when I plugged in my Heil Pro Set, at the start of the contest, there was no transmit audio. It's hard to hold the hand mic in your hand to operate and type on the keyboard at the same time so it was all hunt and peck this time.

WA4DOU: The SSB weekend was a disappointment and conditions were clearly off here. It became obvious to me part way thru the contest that I wasn't even going to approach the results I'd had in previous years under the low power category and I turned on the amplifier. I expect much better results in the CW contest.

Pileup Picture Page

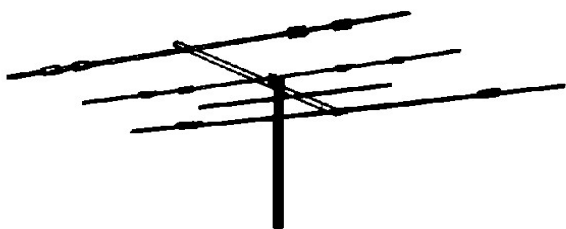


Gary Dixon, K4MQG, Ted Goldthorpe, WA4VCC, and Bill Parris, AA4R, are lined up, to line up contacts for the ARRL June VHF QSO Party. Ted says this photo was not posed, that they really were all in QSO with someone at the moment of the shot. (Photo via WA4VCC.)

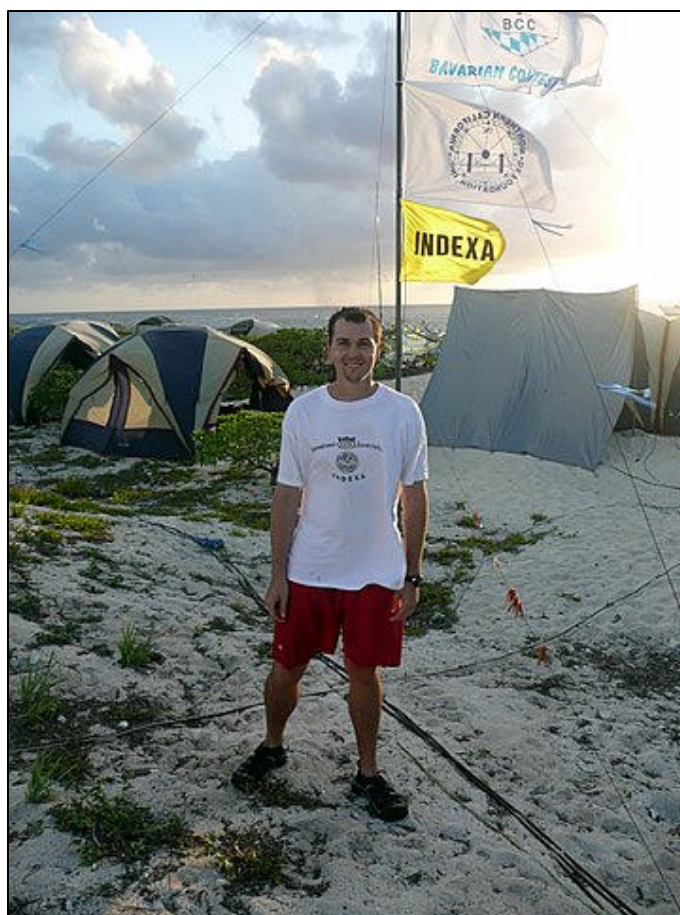
From the annals of time—AA4R, W4VHF, and K4MQG showing their stuff in the September 1994 issue of CQ Magazine!



W4VHF has completed the transition from VHF season to HF season by putting up his multi-band rotatable dipole at about the 95 foot level atop his apartment building. Go Teddy-Freddy!



Above and below, here's Josh Fisher, W4WJF, working the world from Willis Island as VK9DWX.



CQWW – A Secret Weapon?

Dick Williams, W3OA

The CQWW CW contest this month provides an opportunity to see if CW Skimmer can improve our contest scores. I, and maybe others, will be running CW Skimmer putting out packet spots like you see on CDXA's packet nodes. You can get these spots via a telnet connection to my station.

How do I get the Skimmer spots? Just telnet to w3oa.no-ip.org. You need an Internet telnet connection because Skimmer puts out so many spots it would overwhelm an RF connection. You can use the same software you currently use to get spots from K4MD and merely change the IP address to w3oa.no-ip.org (note the "dot" ORG at the end of the telnet address as opposed to the "dot" com at the end of K4MD's IP address). A contest logging program, like N1MM, that puts the spots in a band map, is a great way to use the spots.

What will I see? Both the spots from Skimmer and K4MD. You won't lose the K4MD spots by connecting to W3OA. I've arranged for the CW Skimmer spots and K4MD spots to be interleaved together in time sequence. The spots coming from Skimmer will have the identifier " de W3OA". If coming from K4MD the identifier will be the station that originally entered the spot. The telnet server I'm using is very dumb. It won't ask you any questions or respond to any commands like SHOW/DX. It will, however, send out announcements and WWV reports received from K4MD. And there's no need, or way, to log off. Just close the program on your end of the connection.

Can I test this out before the contest? Yes. The software will be running 24/7 from now until the contest is over. For testing prior to the contest CW Skimmer will be running a replay of 20 meters during the recent SweepStakes contest. So, you'll see a lot of U.S. calls and the time on the spots will be when the recording was made and will have no relation to the time on your clock. But this will provide a constant source of spots to test your setup, and mine. Send me an email if you have difficulties (w3oa@roadrunner.com).

More Details.

The CW Skimmer spots are generated by machine decoding and frequently contain errors. For CQWW, I will set up CW Skimmer so it just send spots for stations that are "running" and are in the Super Check Partial database. (K5ZD maintains this list of calls that have appeared in contest logs for the last two years.) The full database contains about 48,000 calls. I've created a new version of the Super Check Partial database containing 31,000 calls by removing all the U.S. calls so you will only see CW Skimmer spots for stations that will create points for you in the contest.

My Skimmer covers a 96 kHz bandwidth and just one band at a time. I'll set it up for the lower end of each band, looking mainly at 20 meters during the day and 40 meters at night.

It's easy to add additional CW Skimmers from other locations to my software. So, if anyone else has a Software Defined Radio (SDR) and can run CW Skimmer (even the free trial version) during the contest please let me know. If your Skimmer computer is connected to the Internet, I can add your Skimmer spots to the stream of spots from w3oa.no-ip.org. The more bands we can cover simultaneously the better.

Pileup to Reappear in January, 2009

No, there is nothing "funny" going on. This time of the year your editor earns his one month hiatus—June and December each year—from his publishing duties. We'll see you in January. Don't forget to send me your "stuff" for the *Pileup*. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Proposed By-law Amendment

The following amendments to the CDXA By-laws will be submitted for ratification at the 2008 Annual Meeting:

The title of Article V — Elections, Section 2 shall be changed to read: “Time *and Method*” from merely “Time”.

A paragraph shall be added to Article V — Elections, Section 2 to read: “*Election shall be by a simple majority of those qualified to vote and present in person or by proxy. A returnable proxy form may be included in any of the conventional means of communicating with the membership. Absent a proxy form, a member may draft his or her own proxy indicating their vote. Proxies shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer at his address indicated in the roster at least one week prior to the scheduled election.*”

Annual December Elections

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting/Holiday Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008 at Shanghai Restaurant in Charlotte, NC. CDXA will elect its officers to serve for the 2009 calendar year. All current officers have expressed a willingness to stand for reelection for 2009. Yet, anyone wishing to run for any office should make his desire known to the Nominating Committee Chairman, Wilson Caselli, K1MIJ at WCaselli@GMail.com

A review of the Bylaws by the CDXA Executive Committee does not specifically allow, nor does it deny voting by proxy at the annual meeting in election of officers or for other business matters. CDXA has grown to have a fairly dispersed membership since its founding. This dispersion of membership of CDXA may prevent members living far away from the location of the annual meeting from expressing their voice in the operation of CDXA. While not specifically addressed in the bylaws, the Executive Committee feels it is in the spirit of the organization to permit voting by proxy for this year's annual meeting. Accordingly, the November 2008 Pileup includes a Proxy Form to vote your choice. (At the annual meeting in December 2008, we will vote on an amendment to the bylaws to codify proxy voting.)

Therefore, those wishing to seek an office or to nominate someone to an office should let Wilson Caselli know of your intentions as soon as possible. If you are placing someone's name in nomination, please make sure that person is willing to serve, if elected.

Carolina DX Association Proxy for Annual Meeting/Election of 2009 Officers To be held on December 11, 2008



I, _____ do hereby appoint Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL), current CDXA Secretary/Treasurer or, in his absence, Ted Goldthorpe (W4VHF), current CDXA President, as my proxy to vote my choice for CDXA 2009 officers. If I decide to attend the meeting in person, I reserve the right to withdraw this proxy and vote my choices in person.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

President	_____ Ted Goldthorpe	_____ Write-In
Vice-President	_____ Paul Ponak	_____ Write-In
Secretary-Treasurer	_____ Cliff Wagoner	_____ Write-In
Newsletter Editor	_____ John Scott	_____ Write-In
Cluster Manager	_____ Joe Simpkins	_____ Write-In
Contest Manager	_____ Dick Williams	_____ Write-In

Send executed proxy by December 4 to: Cliff Wagoner, P.O. Box 577, Davidson, NC 28036

The Back Page

Annual Meeting/Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008. An amendment to CDXA By-laws and election of officers will be included in the business meeting. Details on Pages 3 and 8.

CDXA earns a **First Place Finish in Category 5E and the State of North Carolina in Field Day 2008**. See Front Page.

Membership Dues are Due! Make your payment today. It is easier than ever now with PayPal. See Page 2.

Did you ever wonder what Navassa looks like? How about Bouvet Island? How about all of the **top fifty “most wanted” DXCC entities**? They’re pictured on an Internet site. See Page 4.

Who will be crowned **DX King** from the ranks of CDXA? By the time the next issue of the *Pileup* comes out, you may already be behind in the quest for that title. See Page 4.

AA4ZZ team captures second in Nation and first in the Southeast in ARRL June VHF QSO Party. See Page 4.

CQWW—CW and CWAC await us at the end of November. The “halftime” report after CQWW—SSB shows we’ve got our work cut out for us, but Contest Manager Dick Williams has a helper for us in CW Skimmer. Details on Pages 5 and 7.

A **Pileup Picture Page** of scenes both old and new awaits you on Page 6.

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

jcw53@cornell.edu

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.